Mr. SPEAKER.—The question is :

"That in sub-clause (2), item (i) lines 2 and 3, the words "fees or cess imposed" shall be deleted."

The amendment was negatived.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The question is :

"That clause 52 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 52 was added to the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The question is :

"that clause 1, the Title and the Preamble stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, that Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Motion to pass.

Sri S. R. KANTHI.—Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Mysore Public Libraries Bill, 1964, as reported by the Joint Select Committee and as amended, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The question is :

" That the Mysore Public Libraries Bill, 1964, as reported by the Joint Select Committee and as amended, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE MYSORE IRRIGATION BILL, 1965.

As reported by the Joint Select Committee.

Motion to Consider.

Sri VEERENDRA PATIL (Minister for Public Works).—I beg to move :

" That the Mysore Irrigation Bill, 1965, as reported by the Joint Select Committee, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Motion moved.

"That the Mysore Irrigation Bill, 1965, as reported by the Joint Select Committee be taken into conisderation."

† Sri VEERENDRA PATIL.—Sir, I am very happy to present this Bill as reported by the Joint Select Committe to this August House. I am happy because the report is unanimous and the decisions that we have taken and the additions or alterations that have been made in the Select Committee have been unanimously approved by all the members of the Select Committee. I do not wish to take much of the time of the House in explaining the amendments that have been proposed by the Joint Select Committee. I shall try to be as brief as possible.

In clause 4 in the original Bill, there was a general restriction, namely, there shall be a restriction on the construction of tanks, anecuts, bandharas, as also on the construction of wells. It was felt by the members of the Joint Select Committee that such a general restriction on the construction of wells may result in harassment to the agriculturists who want to sink irrigation wells in their fields. As that was not the object of the Government, it was unanimously agreed to delete those words from clause 4 (1) and a new clause was proposed in order to provide for the control of wells in the specified areas where construction of wells was going to affect adversely irrigation works. That change has been effected in the Bill.

Similarly, according to claus 24 of the orginal Bill, the time for serving notice on the user or beneficiary in order to exeute the necessary repairs for the field channel was 15 days. It was felt that 15 days would be too long a period and it should be reduced to 7 days. Accordingly that amendment has been incorporated in the Bill.

Similarly, on the floor of the House and also in the Joint Select Committee it was felt that the power of regulating the time for letting out water for irrigation, the period of supply, etc., should not be left solely to the Irrigation Officer, but that a Committee should be constituted consisting of officials and non-officials to advise the Government or the officers who are there on the spot for the purpose. Clause 27 has been accordingly amended and we have provided for the constitution of a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials in clause 27.

Then coming to clause 31, the Committee went into the question of filing of appeal before the Deputy Commissioner regarding the kind of crop and the period of sowing, etc., and it was felt that instead of 7 days' notice 15 day's notice should be given. Accordingly that amendment has been incorporated in clause 31.

Then according to the original clause 32, it was the Irrigation Officer who was to decide about the supply of water to the area which falls outside the atchkat area. It was felt by the Joint Select Committee that such power should not be given only to the Irrigation Officer. He can do so in cosultation with the Committee that is going to be constituted also with the approval of the Deputy Commissioner. Accordingly, these provisions have been incorporated in the Bill.

(SRI VEERENDRA PATIL)

Then according to the original Bill, the charge prescribed for emergency service was 25 per cent over the normal rate, but the members of the Joint Select Committee felt that 25 per cent would not be adequate and it should be raised to 50 per cent. That change has been accepted and incorporated in the Bill.

Then the Committee considered the maintenance cess. It was provided in the original Bill that this should be collected at the rate of Rs. 5 per acre. After some deliberation it was unanimously agreed to levy maintenance cess at the rate of Rs. 4 per acre. This change has been incorporated in the Bill. It was also felt by the members of the Joint Select Committee that if any beneficiary is not getting water continuously for 2 years then in such a case, no maintenance cess should be levied on such cultivator. That has been accepted and added as a proviso in which we have made it clear that if water is not made available for the use of any such beneficiary of any irrigation work for a period of two consecutive years, the holder of such land should not be required to pay maintenance cess for those years.

Then we have made provision for control of tanks which belong to taluk boards. There are irrigation works which are under the control of the Tungabhadra Board and other authorities. When we levy maintenance cess then it becomes the duty of the Government or the authority to which that cess goes, to maintain those channels and irrigation works. So a provision has been made when maintenace cess is collected on field works under the control of the taluk boards or the Tungabhadra Board, then to the extent that maintenance cess is collected, that will be debited to their account. This has been done by adding a new clause 45.

Then it was felt that whatever maintenance cess is collected, it should go to a separate fund. This was the consensus of opinien of the members of the Joint Select Committee and the Government have agreed to this proposal and a provision for the same has been incorporated in the Bill.

Then there are some other minor amendments. I do not want to go into their details here.

This is a unanimous report of the Joint Select Committee and I commend to the House for its acceptance.

MR. SPEAKER.—I can very well appreciate the anxiety of Members to be released so that they may attend to some other function. I do not, however, think that any other function can have priority over our work. The time allotted for this Bill is 2½ hours, then there is the Supplementary Demands.....

SRI C. J. MUCKANNAPPA.—(Sira) Sir We shall take up both on the 29th.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I wanted to accommodate the members. May I take it that the House agrees to finish both this Bill and the Supplementary Demands on Friday.

Sri M. C. BASAPPA.—We will try to finish both.

Mr. SPEAKER.—We should not only try, we should accomplish it. The house will now rise and meet tomorrow at one of the clock.

The House adjourned at fifty-five minutes past five of the Clock to meet again at One of the Clock on Friday the 29th January 1965.